

SPENCER PLACE /
19TH STREET

WALKING TOUR



A WALKING TOUR
OF THE AREA'S HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Rock Island, Illinois

SPENCER PLACE/19TH STREET AREA

Spencer Place is the name given to the 6th and 7th Avenue area around 19th Street on an early Rock Island map. One of Rock Island's premier residential areas, Spencer Place contains a series of large homes of varying architectural styles. Prior to the numbering of Rock Island streets, 7th Avenue was known as Spencer Street. Nineteenth Street, then known as Jefferson, was an elm lined boulevard whose proximity to downtown made it a desirable neighborhood for the families of businessmen, railroad employees, merchants, political figures and professionals.

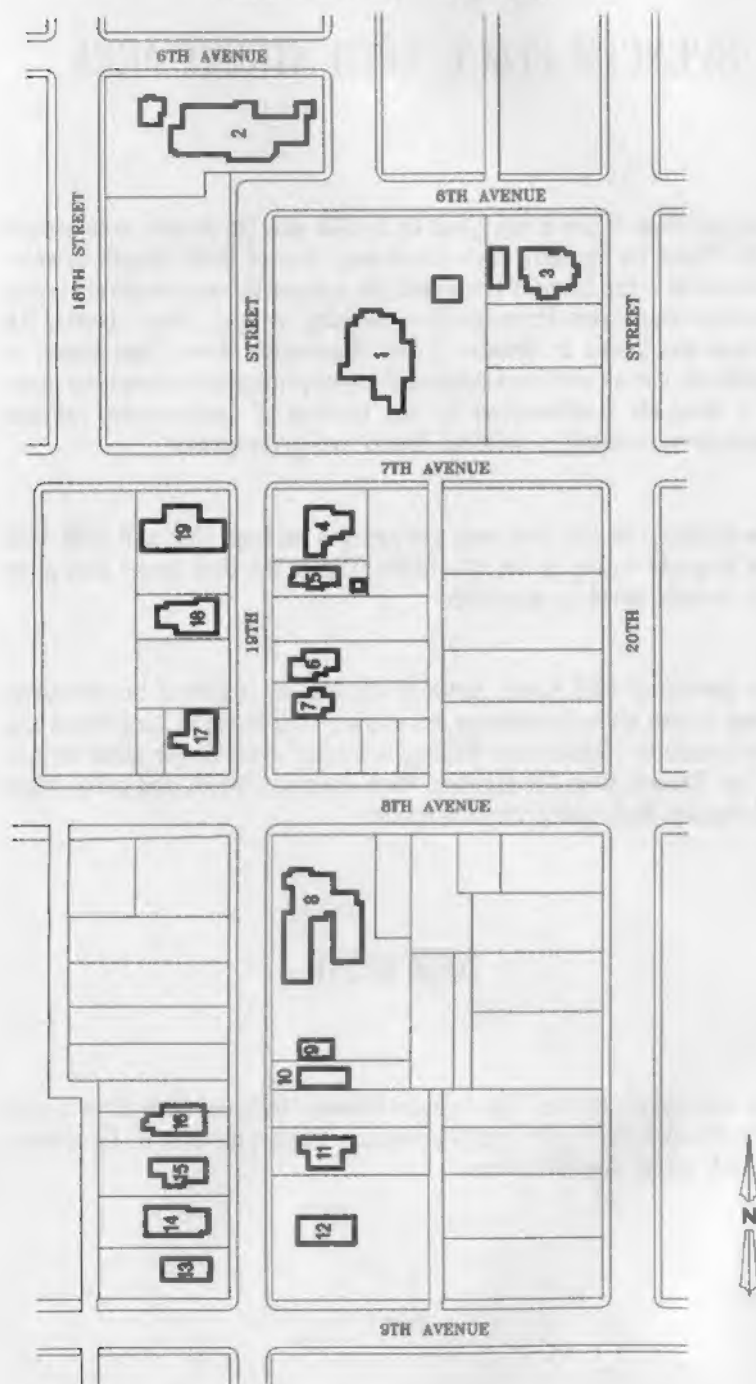
The buildings on this tour were constructed between 1853 and 1936, with the majority dating in the late 1800's. This is the time frame that gives this neighborhood its character.

The portion of 19th Street, south of 7th Avenue, is part of the Broadway Historic Area whose boundaries are roughly 17th Street to 23rd Street and 7th Avenue to 13th Avenue. Walking tours are available for other streets in the Historic Area, the Highland Park Historic District, and many other interesting Rock Island neighborhoods.

TOUR ROUTE

The walk covers 6th and 7th Avenues between 18th and 20th Streets, and 19th Street between 6th and 9th Avenues. Begin your tour at the corner of 19th Street and 6th Avenue.

SPENCER PLACE/19TH STREET WALKING TOUR



1. Rosenfield House (ca. 1890). 1900 - 6th Avenue.

Built between the years of 1890 and 1893, this was the home of Rock Island businessman Morris Rosenfield and his family. Rosenfield was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1859, joining his two uncles in a local wholesale leather business. One of the Rosenfield children, Walter, was mayor of Rock Island from 1923 to 1927. The home remained a single family residence until 1920. The Romanesque Revival style structure with its Queen Anne silhouette is believed to have been designed by Rock Island architect E. S. Hammel as he was the only architect in the Tri-Cities designing in the Romanesque style in the 1890's. The December 2, 1893 issue of the Rock Island Argus describes the house as palatial, containing 18 rooms, seven fireplaces and a third floor ballroom. It is reported to have cost \$50,000 to build.



Romanesque features of the structure include a cross gabled roof, lower with its conical roof, round topped arch over the left front window, and asymmetrical facade. The most notable feature is the use of materials: the mixing of dark red brick with five bands of rough faced, squared (ashlar) stonework. Also of note are the stone dormer, the foliate pattern pressed tin cornice, the second story recessed porch and the massive front and carriage porches, both constructed of the same pinkish ashlar stone.

2. Trinity Episcopal Church (ca. 1869). 1808 - 6th Avenue.

Easter services were held in the newly completed Trinity Episcopal Church in 1869. The Gothic design of the building is evidenced in its arched windows, steeply pitched spire, and the small buttresses around the exterior walls. Carved wood, much of it oak, forms the beamed ceiling, altar, and pulpit of the church. Most of the wood working was done by German artisans who came to Rock Island to complete the church. Flanking the altar are stained glass windows entitled "The Road to Emmaus" and "Christ and His Mother at the Temple," created by John LaFarge. Saint Cecelia, the patron saint of music, is portrayed in a window now located in the chapel. This window, designed by the Tiffany Studios, features Tiffany's unusual drapery glass and multiple layers of glass.



*WALK EAST ALONG
6TH AVENUE. TURN
RIGHT ONTO 20TH
STREET*

3. Sudlow-DeSilva House (ca. 1890). 608 - 20th Street.

As originally built, the Sudlow-DeSilva house is a wonderful example of Queen Anne architecture. The style is characterized by the opulent profusion of its elements: verandas and balconies, turrets and towers, and varieties of materials, patterns and colors. Wall surfaces are used as decorative elements. Roof lines are steeply pitched and irregular in shape. Usually a dominant front facing gable is present.

Plain flat walls are avoided through the use of bays, towers, overhangs, and wall projections. Differing wall textures are achieved with patterned wood shingles shaped into varying designs or by using different patterns of brick courses.



Extensive one story porches are common and are used to accentuate the asymmetry of a Queen Anne facade. Second story porches are often recessed. Doors and windows tend to be simple. In spite of the name, borrowed from an earlier English style, the Queen Anne style is truly American -- an expression of the expansive qualities of the 19th Century industrial era known as the "gilded age". The DeSilva house as originally built was asymmetrical in design with a conical tower and prominent gables on all four facings. A large one story porch covered a portion of the front facade and smaller recessed porches existed on the southeast corner and on the second story. Although extensively altered, Queen Anne elements of the structure still remain. Wooden shingles cover the gable ends and the third story of the tower. The decorative attic windows have been preserved.

WALK SOUTH ALONG 20TH STREET, CROSS 7TH AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT

4. Potter House (ca. 1907). 1906 - 7th Avenue.

Rock Island architect George Stauduhar designed this home in 1907 for Mrs. Minnie E. Potter, president of J.W. Potter Company, publishers of The Argus newspaper. Minnie Potter organized the company when she was left with the paper upon being widowed at the age of 32. Mrs. Potter, who never remarried, raised her three children in this home and continued to live here until her death. The home remained in the Potter family until 1983. The home is a Rock Island Local Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The overall architectural style of this house is Colonial Revival blended with stylistic details from the Prairie School. The front facade is primarily Colonial Revival with



symmetrical positioning of the windows and entrance. The door has side lights and an elliptical fan light above. Most of the windows are typical of the Prairie style with the lower sash having a single pane of glass and the upper sash having nine panes. The exterior surface treatment is stucco with rough texture on the lower portion and smoother texture on the upper,

the two being divided by molding. This too is characteristic of the Prairie style. A roof dormer extending out from the center of the front facade frames the main entrance. The second floor extends over the front porch and a set of Tuscan columns forms the visual connection between the extended dormer and the entrance. Large rounded steps lead up to the front entrance of the home. Notice the recessed simulated fans or pediments above the windows.

Turn left onto 19th Street

5. Patterson House (ca. 1891). 709 - 19th Street.

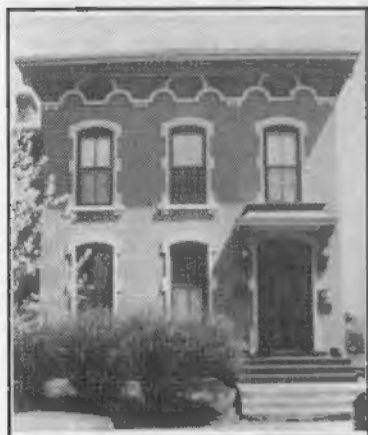
Martin A. Patterson, chief clerk at the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, built this family home around 1891. With the exception of a one story addition and an open porch added to the south rear, the home retains its original appearance. It is a Queen Anne style with strong Eastlake characteristics. Charles Eastlake was a furniture designer who

advocated decoration using carved, notched and angular designs. Eastlake features on this house include the spindlework on the porch frieze, and the very narrow, vertical molding on the porch gable. The front window displays notched and applied moldings above the window and at each corner. Below, diagonally placed narrow molding further emphasizes the window. Another Eastlake feature is seen in the use of three distinct shingle patterns on the front gable. No limits were put on the arrangement of forms or ornamentation on the exterior of these Eastlake homes.



6. Steele House (ca. 1880). 725 - 19th Street.

Alexander Steele of Alexander Steele and Sons, Hardware Dealers, was the first occupant of this house. He lived here only two or three years, as did the next tenants. In the 1930's the house was converted to apartments. The Italianate style of this house is evidenced in its low pitched hip roof and its widely



overhanging eaves. The hooded entrance supported by brackets and the double doors with transom above are also typical to this style, as are the small decorative windows below the eaves and the tall narrow windows with elliptical tops. The natural dark red brick of this house was originally unpainted.

7. Cook-Pearce House (ca. 1894). 727 - 19th Street.



8. Stewart-Cleaveland House (ca. 1880). 805 - 19th Street.

John Stewart, of Stewart and Montgomery Hardware, built this house around 1880 and later sold it to Harry H. Cleaveland, of Hayes and Cleaveland Insurance. Little remains today that would identify this house as a Queen Anne. You can see the modified lower to the left of the entrance, the asymmetry of silhouette, and the steeply pitched roof. When built, this house was sided with narrow clapboard. By 1915, the house was covered with stucco and half-timbering reflecting the influence of the Prairie style. The entire home was covered with brick in the 1940's.

Thomas M. Cook, a conductor for the CB&Q Railroad, was the first owner of this house, which was built in 1894. Collins Brothers served as contractors and the cost of the building was \$3,200. In 1897, the home was purchased by Reverend Robert G. Pearce. Probably best described as a Princess Anne style, this house retains much of the asymmetrical massing of its parent, the Queen Anne, but the surface treatments are much simpler. Straight cut clapboard is used instead of multiple bands of shingles. Multiple roof lines and gables are retained, as is the lower. The unique square lower still retains its original finial on top. The square shape is indicative of a transition between Queen Anne and Slick styles. The bell cast (flared) eaves indicate a transition between Queen Anne and Italianate styles. Note the bracketing on the lower's eaves. The placement of the Eastlake style front porch with its ornate spindlework and its applied ornamentation, is similar to porch placement in many Rock Island homes where the porch is tucked between two gables. This house is a Rock Island Local Landmark.



Stewart-Cleveland House

9. Kemble House (ca. 1903). 827 - 19th Street.

This house was built for Samuel S. Kemble who was a teacher with, and later became Superintendent of, Rock Island schools. Mr. Kemble was also one of the organizers of the Sunday (then called Sabbath) School at the First Methodist Church at 19th Street and 5th Avenue. The public school, Kemble School, which once stood on the southeast corner across from the church, was named in his honor. The Kemble family lived in the home for 20 years. Wide siding covers most of the original detail of the house and the porch enclosure is not original. Another example of Queen Anne style, the front gable within a gable, is used to break up solid wall surfaces. The Palladian window, with its central arched sash and surrounding smaller windows, remains today.

10. Hoge House (ca. 1903). 831 - 19th Street.



The December 31, 1903 edition of the Argus reported that Charles Hoge, a dealer in coal, oil, and gasoline, built houses at 831 and 832 - 19th Street during that year. City directories, however, show Thomas M. Cook, a conductor for the CB&Q Railroad, as the first occupant of this house. It apparently served as rental property until the mid 1930's, at which time it was owned and occupied by David F. Hoge. The next owner was Fred Kahlke, a boat builder. The J.W. Quinlan, which served for years as a nickel ferry between Rock Island and Davenport, was built at the Kahlke Boatyards. This house and its twin across the street are designed in a style very popular between the turn of the century and the 1920's. Characterized by a hipped roof with one or more dormers, and a simple box-like

shape, the design is known as American Foursquare. Both of these homes, however, show some of the earlier Queen Anne influence in the addition of the large two story front bay and the side bay topped with a gabled dormer. The brackets supporting the wide roof overhang and the small paired front windows are also Queen Anne details.



11. Mack House (ca. 1891). 841 - 19th Street.

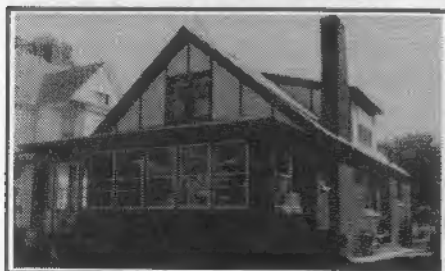
Harvey D. Mack bought this house in 1892. At the time, he was an agent for the CB&Q Railroad and according to the Tri-City Trade Journal, published in 1893, a "prominent citizen" of Rock Island. Later, Mr. Mack would serve as the president of Blackhawk Building and Loan Association. The Mack family lived in the home until the late 1920's. It was converted into two or three apartments around 1935. Another home built in the Queen Anne style, this house retains little of its original detail. The asymmetrical tower with a bell cast (flared) roof and the four small twelve-paned windows on the third story have been preserved. A nicely detailed transom is located above the front window.



12. Lidders House (ca. 1936). 849 - 19th Street.

Charles Lidders built this home around 1936 and it remained in his family until 1976. The house is a Bungalow in style with Tudor Revival influence. The low lines with the look of a single story, the low shed dormers for additional space and light, and the porch with the gable end facing the street, are typical of Bungalow style houses. The Tudor influence is seen in the suggestion of half timbering in the gable end. The Bungalow was one of the first styles of homes

to be built in quantity by contractor/builders. With the exception of the porch, which was enclosed at a later date, the house has retained much of its original appearance.



Cross 19th Street and turn right



13. Sturgeon-Bahnsen House (ca. 1881). 852 - 19th Street.

Often referred to as "Cottage Italianate" in style, this petite corner home was constructed in 1876 by builder and speculator Mansfield M. Sturgeon. Purchased around 1890 by a member of the Bahnsen family, it has been linked to Frank Bahnsen, a German immigrant who was vice president of Hartz and Bahnsen Drug Company. Italianate features abound in this structure but they are present in less elaborate style than would be seen in a "High Victorian" Italianate. The low pitched roof has widely overhanging eaves with decorative paired brackets underneath. The tall narrow windows, while not rounded on top, are decoratively framed. Side and back porches on the house feature simple supports with decorative brackets at the roof lines. Restoration work done on this house in the 1980's was funded in part by City of Rock Island loan programs that make monies available to property owners in target areas of the city. Loan monies were used to replace the roof and electrical system, refinish the floor, and paint the exterior of the home. This home is a Rock Island Local Landmark

14. Simon-McComb House (ca. 1890). 842 - 19th Street.

Leopold Simon, of Simon and Mosenfelders, moved into this home around 1890 and lived here until around 1910. It was then purchased by William S. McComb



of Young and McComb's Department Store. The McComb family retained possession of the home until 1969. In 1931, Mrs. Ida McComb, widow of William, converted the house into a duplex, with her son William and his wife living in

the upstairs apartment. Details of this Queen Anne are free classic in style, not making use of delicate turned posts or spindlework, but rather classic columns and square cut balusters. The original front porch extended to the south in a semi circle and metal or tile roof cresting was present. The grand second story Palladian window and the scalloped shingle detailing surrounding it have been beautifully preserved.

15. Liedtke House (ca. 1891). 838 - 19th Street.

The John H. Liedtke family moved into this house around 1891 and occupied it for over 60 years. Mr. Liedtke was a deputy U.S. Revenue Collector. By observing the molding and detailing above the front window, characteristics of the Queen Anne style can be seen. When built, this house probably had a small porch by the front door and was clapboard sided. The half timbering and stucco as seen today are closely aligned with the Prairie style, and the full width front porch is characteristic of the Colonial Revival period. These two styles became popular after the turn of the century and their influence can be seen as houses were 'remodeled' over the years.

16. Hoge-Houder House (ca. 1903). 832 - 19th Street.

It is not certain if Charles Hoge built a completely new home here in 1903 or remodeled an existing structure.

City directories show that Burton H. Cook, a carpenter, had a home at this address as far back as 1885. Charles Hoge himself is listed as the occupant of this address from 1901 to 1906. The Jacob W. Houder family lived here from about 1910 until the mid 1940's. A twin of the house across the street, this house is of the American Foursquare style.



17. Guyer-Kimball House (ca. 1865). 730 - 19th Street.

Mr. S.S. Guyer was the original owner of this house. Serving as Sheriff in 1868, Guyer's duty was to carry the county tax receipts to Springfield. Mr. Guyer's daughter, Annette, married James R. Kimball and ownership of the home passed to them in 1901. In the 1940's, the Kimball family sold the house and it became an apartment.



house, listing at various times as many as nine apartments.

The house is Italianate in style and today retains many details characteristic of that style. It has a low pitched hip roof, widely overhanging eaves with paired brackets and a small decorative attic window. The first and second story windows are tall and narrow and crowned with pediments. The double front doors with transoms are also typical of Italianate design.



18. Rice House (ca. 1894). 718 - 19th Street.

Isador M. Lobenstein, a grocer, occupied this house as a renter from 1897 to 1899. It was occupied for the next ten years by Myer C. Rice, proprietor of the London Clothing House Store, and his family who moved here from 724 - 19th Street. In the 1940's, city directories list the house as the address of five to six apartments. In the early 1950's, it was changed into a duplex. This home is another example of Queen Anne style. The front entrance features a recessed door with side lights. Queen Anne trim remains on the front window where a swag and dentils (small square blocks in series) add detail. A recessed attic window displays at least 20 small panes on the upper sash.



*Turn left on
7th Avenue*

19. Buford House (ca. 1854). 1804 - 7th Avenue.

In 1853, wealthy plantation owner Charles Buford came to Rock Island from Kentucky. He was drawn to the area because of its proximity to rail and river transportation. He founded the Buford Plow Factory which later became the Rock Island Plow Company, and finally the Rock Island Works of J.I. Case. He also looked for a proper site for the home he had designed for his large family. He chose the west half of the block at 7th Avenue and 18th Street where a jog

in the street gave him an unobstructed view of the Mississippi River and the citizens of Rock Island an unobstructed view of his home. Upon this site he built one of the most elegant homes in Rock Island. It was said to contain Italian marble fireplaces, crystal chandeliers, mahogany woodwork, twelve bedrooms, a library, and according to *The Rock Island Magazine* (a publication of the Rock Island Lines) "every modern known device in use at that period". The stately home was said to be worth the tremendous sum of \$10,000. Later owners of the home included Levi S. McCabe, founder of L.S. McCabe and Company and Elmore Hurst, an attorney with the firm of Jackson, Hurst and Stafford. The structure remains remarkably intact despite an extensive remodeling designed by George Stauduhar in 1906, and major rear additions made after 1940 when the structure no longer served as a family residence.

Closely designed after the old southern colonial plantation house, the grand mansion is of the Greek Revival style with a full height entry porch common in the south but rare in Illinois. The house exhibits all the major features of the Greek Revival style: a low pitched hip roof (gabled in some cases), a prominent cornice line emphasized with wide bands of trim, a porch supported by large columns, and a front door with a rectangular line of transom lights above. In this example the front porch has massive brick columns the full height of the house surmounted by a pedimented gable with a fanlight and heavy cornice. The area under the cornice is ornamented with vertical lines in groups of three called "triglyphs" in Greek architecture. This ornamentation extends around three sides of the structure. The front corners of the building form pilasters to augment the Greek temple effect. All of the original windows have six-over-six panes and cut stone lintels and sills with the exception of those on the north facade which have heavy, pedimented wooden lintels common to the Greek Revival style. The front vestibule has paired ionic columns and dentil molding with a wrought iron balcony above. The porch foundation and balustrade are of cut stone. The walls of the home are solid brick, nearly twenty inches thick.



HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOURS
of
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

1. Highland Park Historic District
2. 20th Street Residential Area
3. Downtown Rock Island
4. 22nd & 23rd Streets Residential Area
5. Spencer Place / 19th Street Area
6. Olof Z. Cervin 1918 Government Housing
7. Western Downtown
8. Chicago Addition
9. Rock Island History: A Companion to the
Architectural Walking Tours

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Linda L. Anderson
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The Rock Island Preservation Society
Cover Drawing Courtesy of Clayton Peterson
1990



City of ROCK ISLAND

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency



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